

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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EUR/SOV - J.COLBERT
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056429

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED JOINT VENTURE OF US-USSR MARINE RESOURCES
COMPANY

REF: MOSCOW 2723

1. THE PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL RECOMMENDED TO
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AT ITS JANUARY COUNCIL
MEETING THAT THE PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR THE SOVIET SUPPORT
VESSELS FOR THE PROPOSED BELLINGHAM /USSR JOINT VENTURE BE
DENIED. WHEN ASKED TO RECONSIDER THE PERMITS, IN LIGHT OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NEWLY ISSUED PROPOSED INTERIM
POLICY ON JOINT VENTURE GUIDELINES, THE COUNCIL DECIDED AT
ITS FEBRUARY MEETING TO POSTPONE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS REGARD-
ING PERMIT APPLICATIONS RELATING TO JOINT VENTURES UNTIL
1979.

2. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL CAN ONLY MAKE RECOM-
MENDATIONS REGARDING PERMITS, AND THAT THE SECRETARY OF
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COMMERCE HAS FINAL AUTHORITY. AT THIS TIME, COMMERCE HAS
NOT ANNOUNCED DECISION ON ISSUE.

3. FYI - NOT SURPRISINGLY MAIN OPPOSITION TO BELLINGHAM/
USSR JOINT VENTURE COMES FROM THE U.S. FISH PROCESSING
INTERESTS, DESCRIBING THE PROPOSED OPERATION AS AN "END RUN"

AROUND THE INTENT OF THE FISHERIES CONSERVATION AND
MANAGEMENT ACT. PROPONENTS ARGUE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS
JOINT VENTURE WOULD ALLOW US FISHERIES TO HARVEST FISH
PRESENTLY CAUGHT BY FOREIGNERS, AND THAT US COMPANIES ARE
NOT CURRENTLY CAPABLE OF PROCESSING HAKE AND/OR POLLOCK
IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES TO MAKE THE OPERATION PROFITABLE.
SAME ARGUMENTS HAVE BEEN REFLECTED IN DEBATES WITHIN
NORTH PACIFIC ON PROPOSED KMIDC/DAVENY VENTURE. NORTH
PACIFIC HAS DEFERRED ANY DECISIONS ON JOINT VENTURE
APPLICATIONS UNTIL JULY 1. END FYI. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 06 mar 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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